

REMARKS

Claim Objection

Claim 12 has been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis. It is believed that the objection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morohashi (U.S. Pat. No. 4,267,489).

In response to the rejection, applicant has amended independent claim 15 in respect of one minor aspect of the claimed subject matter. No new matter is entered.

Further, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows:

Amended independent claim 15 recites “[a] liquid crystal display comprising: a backlight module including a plurality of light sources emitting light toward a diffusion plate, wherein **said diffusion plate defines at least first and second types of regions therein**, of which the first type of region faces a corresponding adjacent light source in a perpendicular manner while the second type of region faces one or more corresponding adjacent light sources in an oblique manner, under a condition that a diffusion capability of the first type of region is greater than that of the second type of region.” Referring to FIG 2, the diffusion board 230 includes first areas 236 and second areas 237 therein.

In contrast, as shown in FIGS. 1-2C, Morohashi discloses a schaukasten

including a flat casing 1 and a diffusive transparent plate 2, a light homogenized member 3 (also referred to as a light homogenizing member 3), fluorescent lamps 4 and 4', a reflection member 5 mounted in the casing 1, a lighting device 6, and a switch 7. The light homogenized member 3 is a 2 mm thick transparent acrylic plate 8 on which a reflection pattern 9 of a white ink is provided, by screen printing, in the form of dots spaced 1 mm apart, as shown in FIG. 2A. **The reflection pattern 9 is formed on the transparent acrylic plate 8 so that the dots are large in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux from the fluorescent lamps 4 and 4' is large, but small in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux is small, as will be seen from FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C (column 2 lines 51-67). That is, elements A and B are formed on the light homogenized member 3.** Therefore, Morohashi fails to disclose that elements A and B are defined in the light homogenized member 3.

Hence, amended independent claim 15 is clearly different from and novel over the prior art cited by Examiner.

Applicant further asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have derived the liquid crystal display of the present invention from a consideration of Morohashi. That is, amended independent claim 15 is submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the prior art cited by Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are respectfully requested.

If upon reconsideration, Examiner rejects or objects to claim 15, applicant further submits the finality of the current Office Action be withdrawn as follows.

In applicant's first response, claim 15 was amended in respect of informalities and grammatical problems only. The amendment did NOT

necessitate the new ground of rejection in the current Office Action; see MPEP 706.07(a). *Therefore, applicant submits that the making of the second Office Action final was improper, and respectfully requests that the finality of such Office Action be withdrawn.*

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 9-12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morohashi in view of Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,552).

Claims 9-12 and 16 remain unchanged. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows:

Regarding claim 9, this recites “[a] liquid crystal display, comprising: a diffusion board having an emitting surface and an incident surface opposite to the emitting surface; and a light source arranged behind the incident surface; wherein the diffusion board forms an ordinary diffusion section and an intensified diffusion section, the intensified diffusion section having a refractive index higher than that of the ordinary diffusion section, and corresponding to the light source in shape and position, thereby eliminating a “shadow” image of the light source when viewed from the liquid crystal display.”

As discussed above, Morohashi discloses that “the reflection pattern 9 is formed on the transparent acrylic plate 8 so that the dots are large in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux from the fluorescent lamps 4 and 4' is large, but small in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux is small, as will be seen from FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C. The distribution of the luminous flux and the distribution of the transmission of

the light homogenized member 3 by the reflection pattern 9 bear substantially an opposite relationship to each other, as shown in FIG. 3" (column 2 line 62- column 3 line 3). That is, **the element B in FIG. 2A corresponding to the light source 4' has a higher refraction capability than the element A in FIG. 2A.** However, Yokoyama discloses a liquid crystal display having a backlight module (see Figure 6) including a plurality of light sources (12) emitting light toward a diffusion plate (11), wherein the diffusion plate defines at least first and second types of regions (E2, E1) thereof. In FIG. 4(d), three kinds of values E1, E2, and E3 are employed as a refractive index of each block, where, for those values, a material is selected so as to establish a relationship of $E3 < E2 < E1$ (column 15 lines 56-60). That is, **the (E2) or (E3) block region corresponding to the light source 12 has a lower refraction capability than the (E1) block region.** Thus, **the distribution of the elements A and B disclosed by Morohashi is opposite to that of the block regions disclosed by Yokoyama.**

Further, Morohashi discloses that the elements A and B on the light homogenized member 3 are formed with the reflection pattern 9 by providing a white ink and screen printing the white ink in the form of dots spaced 1 mm apart. According to the distribution of the light source 4, the sizes and the distribution densities of the dots are changed (column 2 line 58-column 3 line 6). However, Yokoyama discloses that one light scattering conducting element is formed in combination with the block region processed by molding and kneading a different refractive index material. Thus, **the dots are manifestly different from the block region made of the different refractive index material, in terms of structures, manufacturing processes, and working principles.**

Consequently, the schaukasten disclosed by Morohashi cannot be workably combined with the liquid crystal display disclosed by Yokoyama to

provide the liquid crystal display of the present invention.

Therefore, applicant asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have derived the liquid crystal display of the present invention from a consideration of Morohashi and Yokoyama. That is, claim 9 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the prior art cited by Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12 and 16 directly and indirectly depend from claim 9, and therefore should also be allowable.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morohashi in view of Yokoyama and in further view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. 5,550,657, "Tanaka").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows:

Dependent claim 13 recites that the reflector of the liquid crystal display comprises a reflective film to increase the light reflected from the reflector. As stated by Examiner, Tanaka discloses a reflecting film to improve the reflective efficiency of such reflectors to near 100%. However, as discussed above, the schaukasten disclosed by Morohashi cannot be combined with the liquid crystal display disclosed by Yokoyama to provide the liquid crystal display of the present invention. Hence, applicant asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have derived the liquid crystal display of the present invention from a consideration of Morohashi, Yokoyama and Tanaka.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Morohashi in view of Yokoyama and in further view of Ariyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072080, "Ariyoshi").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows:

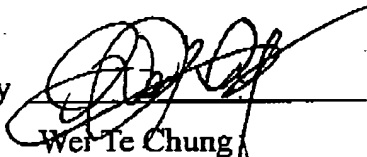
Dependent claim 17 recites that a material of the scattering particulates of the liquid crystal display comprises melamine resin having a grain size ranging from 5 to 30 micrometers. As stated by Examiner, Ariyoshi discloses melamine-based fine particles. However, as discussed above, the schaukasten disclosed by Morohashi cannot be combined with the liquid crystal display disclosed by Yokoyama to provide the liquid crystal display of the present invention. Hence, applicant asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have derived the liquid crystal display of the present invention from a consideration of Morohashi, Yokoyama and Ariyoshi.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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